‘Working with Nature’ Press Release
December 15, 2008

PIANC[1] today announces the publication of a new Position Paper entitled **Working with Nature**[2]. This important paper has evolved through an iterative process involving PIANC’s Environmental Commission (EnviCom), PIANC’s partner associations on EnviCom (particularly the Central Dredging Association[3] (CEDA) and the International Association of Dredging Companies[4] (IADC)) and PIANC’s Executive Committee who approved the paper.

Working with Nature calls for an important shift in thinking in our approach to navigation development projects to help deliver mutually beneficial, ‘win-win’ solutions. It promotes a proactive, integrated approach which:

- focuses on achieving the project objectives in an ecosystem context rather than assessing the consequences of a predefined project design;
- focuses on identifying win-win solutions rather than simply minimising ecological harm.

Working with Nature thus considers the project objectives firstly from the perspective of the natural system rather than from the perspective of technical design. However, **Working with Nature** does not mean that we no longer achieve our development objectives: rather it ensures that these objectives are satisfied in a way which maximises opportunities and - importantly - reduces frustrations, delays and associated extra costs.

The PIANC Position Paper discusses the extent to which the **Working with Nature** concept can already be put into practice, as well as some of the outstanding challenges. It also recognises that developing and delivering such win-win initiatives will take more innovation and imagination in some cases than in others. Notwithstanding such challenges, PIANC is convinced that the rewards of **Working with Nature** will extend far beyond the natural environment into social and economic aspects.

Working with Nature represents an important element of PIANC’s future strategy: it will be actively promoted both within and outside the organisation[5] as a necessary way to contribute to truly sustainable development.

---

[1] PIANC is the forum where professionals around the world join forces to provide expert advice on cost-effective, reliable and sustainable infrastructure to facilitate the growth of waterborne transport. Established in 1885, PIANC continues to be the leading partner for government and private sector in the design, development and maintenance of ports, waterways and coastal areas.

A non-political and non-profit organisation, PIANC brings together the best international experts on technical, economic and environmental issues pertaining to waterborne transport infrastructure. Members include national governments, public authorities, corporations and

interested individuals. PIANC provides guidance to public and private partners through high-quality technical reports. Its international working groups develop regular technical updates on pressing global issues to benefit members on shared best practices.

[2]The full text of the Position Paper can be found at: http://www.pianc-aipcn.org/docs02/news/Workingwithnature.doc

[3] The Central Dredging Association (CEDA*)* is the reference point for independent knowledge and information on all aspects of dredging and marine construction. It is the meeting place for professionals working in these fields and based in Africa, Europe and the Middle-East. www.dredging.org; www.cedaconferences.org**.**

[4] IADC (International Association of Dredging Companies) is the global umbrella organisation for contractors in the private dredging industry www.iadc-dredging.com

[5]**Working with Nature** is also a key theme at the forthcoming 32nd PIANC International Congress, to be held in Liverpool, England in 2010. An international photo competition is currently being organised by PIANC's UK Committee to generate images for use in promoting the **Working with Nature** Position Paper, including an exhibition at the Congress. Further details about the photo competition can be found on the PIANC UK website at www.pianc.org.uk